Numb. 36.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflections on the Defeat of the French *in* Italy *by the* Germans. *The Advantage of this Defeat to the Allies in General and to* England *in Particular.*

From Saturday August the 22d, to Wednesday August the 26th, 1702.

Obs. HOneſt Country-man, thou art Welcome from *London*. Pray what News have you brought us?

Country-m. I have brought you the beſt News that has Arriv'd in *England* ſince the Revolution. The brave Prince *Eugene* and his *Germans* have totally Routed the *French* in *Italy*; I have bought all the Papers for your peruſal. After I had put up my Horſe, I went over *London-Bridge*, where I met a First-Rate *Jack*, and a *High-Flyer* of my Acquaintance; he look'd ſo Damnably Dull and Confounded, that he ſeem'd the very Picture of Remorſe and Deſpair, his Words came out of his Mouth with their Heels upward from the very bottom of his Belly, he was transformed into a meer Groaning Board, and had I not known him very well by his Fiz, I ſhould have taken him for *Oliver*'s Porter riſen from the Dead, by the Air of Madneſs that ſat on his Face; I was forced to ſhake him by the Hand, to feel whether he was not a Spectre; I forc'd Diſcourſe upon him, but I found he Rav'd, and delivered himſelf in broken Accents, and at every turn he look'd up at Sir *Charles Duncomb*'s Dyal, and Sigh'd after a ſtrange manner; and if I an't miſtaken, I think at one time I ſaw the top of his Heart peep out of his Mouth, as if he were in a horrid Fright: Thinks I, this poor Man has loſt ſome Relation or other, and ſo we parted. I went a little farther, and met an *Old Whig* who was as much diſguiſed with Joy, as the t'other was with Grief. *Have you heard the brave News*? ſaid he: *I am but juſt come to Town*, ſaid I. *Then*, ſaid he. *I'll give you one Pint at the Tavern, where I'll tell you the beſt News that ever you heard in your Life*; away we went to the *Swan* and *Hoop*, where he told me the particulars of the Victory, and having Drank Prince *Eugene*'s Health, we parted. But Pray Mr. *Obſervator* what is the meaning that the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* are ſo caſt down and confounded at the News of every Advantage the Allies get over the *French*? This looks as if they were Enemies to the *Proteſtant Cauſe*, and conſequently are not Churchmen, as they pretend, but *Vizor'd Papiſts*.

Obſ. You are Right in your Notion. The *French* power is what they rely on, for the Accompliſhment of their Deſign in the bringing in their Fictitious P. of *Wales*: Is it any wonder to have Men Sigh and Groan for Chains and Fetters, when you ſee the *French* Vaſſals Fight, and are Knock'd o'th' Head to enable their Tyrant farther to Oppreſs themſelves, and to become the General Oppreſſor of *Europe*; and our Slaves in *England*, induſtriouſly aſſiſt the Foreign *Vaſſals*, as if there were Charms in Wooden-Shooes, and the Muſick of Chains and Fetters was as ſweet as the Melody of Organs: Let any Man Judge of the Temper and Principles of theſe Men, and thence conclude whether they are fit to be employed under a *Proteſtant Queen*, in a *Proteſtant Nation*, notwithſtanding their ſpecious pretences of Merit by their true Zeal for the *Church* of *England*. Can they have any true Zeal for the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, or the *Church of England*, who rejoice at Her Misfortunes, and Mourn for any Advantage the *Proteſtant* Cauſe gets over the *Papiſts*?

Country-m. Pray Sir be pleaſed to read the News, let the Company hear the Joyful Account of this Victory.

Obſ. I will begin with the Account from *Paris*: That *Gazzet* ſays, That Prince *Eugene* was forc'd to this Attack by reaſon he wanted Proviſions, and this ſeems true by the manner of the *Germans* Fighting, they Fought as if they were Hungry; this was juſt ſuch another job as was performed by P. *Lewis* of *Baden*, againſt the *Turks* at *Salankement*; when People are hungry, they are generally out of Humour; and this may be a Caution to the D. *d' Anjou* for the future, not to intercept any of the *German* Convoys of Proviſions, but always to take care that they have their Bellies full; for we find the leſs Victuals they have for their Stomachs, the greater Stomach they have to Fighting: But this Account, and Prince *Eugene's*, is very different; the *French* Gazzet ſays, they loſt 1500 Men, and that the *Germans* loſt 6000: It ſays the King of *Spain* made his Eſcape from thoſe that had the Charge of him, and that he was in the Heat of the Action; I am afraid the next Mail will bring us an Account that this young Warriour is heated into a Charcoal; that he is grown a ſecond hand Warriour, and will hardly ſerve for another Engagement without vamping; and I ſuppoſe is now enquiring a way into *France* without paſſing thro' *Spain*.

Country-m. But what do they mean when they ſay he made his Eſcape from thoſe that had the Care of him?

Obſ. He had ſome Perſons appointed, I ſuppoſe, to keep him from venturing his Royal Perſon too far, for Youth is very Veturesome.

Country-m. Then they us'd him, as you *Londoners* do uſe their Dogs at the *Bear-Garden*. I have ſeen 'em hold a young Puppy in a Chain, whilſt the great Dogs have engaged the Bull; the Puppy has Bark'd, and Rav'd, and Foam'd, as if the Devil had been in him; and by and by he has broke looſe and ſweep in he has come upon the Bull, who has given him a Cant with his Horns, which has ſo baulk'd the Young

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Curr, that he would never look a Bull in the Face afterwards; even ſo have they done by *Anjou*; his Keepers let him looſe too ſoon; this Baulk in the firſt On-ſet of War, is the ſame thing as a Knock in the Cradle; it will affect him all his Life-time; I believe he'll never Love the ſmell of Gun-Powder after this Bout.

Obſ. The moſt Comical part of this News, is, The *French* King upon this Story of the Defeat of Prince *Eugene*, has written a Letter to the Duke of *Burgundy*, wherein he adviſes Him to Imitate his Brother, the K. of *Spain*, in ſeeking after Glory. You ſee he does not recommend himſelf as a Patern in War; but this Youngſter is the firſt of that Family, that ever attempted to ſmell to a Cannon-Bullet.

Country-m. If the Duke of *Burgundy* imitates his Royal Brother, 'tis hop'd he will have the ſame Succeſs, and then their Grandfather had much better have kept his two Gracious Grandſons at Home; for I find the Fortune of War is not at all on the ſide of the *French* this Summer.

Obſ. The old *French* Bawd *Maintenon*, I ſuppoſe, will Kick up her Heels at the Report of this Loſs; Poor Creature, ſhe was half Dead with Grief before, at the Loſs of her dear *Villeroy*, which was much Augmented by the Loſs of her *Iriſh* Companion lately gone for *England*; but this will prove a Damn'd ſhock to her old Corps, ſhe'll hardly get over it; and if ſhe takes a Journey to t'other Country, the *Old-Tyrant* muſt follow; for he had better *Die* than *Survive* Her, by whoſe Charms he work'd himſelf into ſo many *Miſchiefs*, and into ſo many *Uſurpations* upon his *Neighbours*. I'll tell thee Man, The News of this Defeat of the *French*, will kill more People than the *Germans* did on the ſpot in *Italy*; they'll Die like *Thruſhes* and *Robbin Red-Breaſts*, in a cold Winter; I warrant you in the next *Weekly-Bill* of *Mortality*, you'll find ſome Hundreds Dead with Grief: It's a Stab to the Heart to have their dear Friends the *French* maul'd to a condition of never being able to carry on their Deſign to effect it in *Italy*. For henceforward we eſteem the Arch-D. *Charles* to be King of *Spain*, for I am much out in my Politicks if this be not the *Deciſive Battel*.

And for this have we the greateſt reaſon to admire the *Divine Goodneſs*, which has Crown'd the Armies of the Allies with Succeſs, at a Juncture when the Enemies of all the *Free-People* of *Europe* were full of hopes of our ſudden Deſtruction, and were preparing Yoaks and Fetters for Mankind without Diſtinction; and much more reaſon have we to admire the Wiſdom of the *Supreme Governour* of the *Univerſe*; in that he bringeth his Purpoſes to paſs without the Effuſion of *Proteſtant Blood*, but works his Gracious Ends by daſhing the Potſherds of the Earth one againſt another; for he that can work without Inſtruments, can effect his Ends by Inſtruments which ſeem moſt improper to *Humane Underſtanding*; and if the poor Ignorant *Papiſts* can ſing *Te Deum*, and ſuperſtitiouſly return Thanks to the *Almighty*, I think it behoves *Proteſtant Societies* much more to exerciſe themſelves in Thankſgivings and grateful Acknowledgments of the *Divine Goodneſs*, in ſo ſignal a Victory.

For as it affects the whole *Proteſtant Cauſe*, ſo does it Influence all Countries where the People have a Right to their *Freedom*; and particularly *England*, when our old Enemies were carrying on their Deſigns againſt our *Antient Conſtitution*; the *Deſtruction* of which, they could never Accompliſh without Aſſiſtance from a Foreign *Popiſh Power*.

This Animates and Envigorates the whole Confederacy; for Succeſs on one ſide gives Encouragement to the reſt, and ſtirs up a Martial Deſire in the other Armies to acquire the like Glorious Victories.

The *Neopolitans* are hereby Encouraged, and their Numbers muſt daily encreaſe, when they find themſelves on the Conquerors ſide.

The *Venetians* have now the greateſt Encouragement to Relinquiſh their *Neutrality*, which has prov'd ſo great a Prejudice to the *Emperors Intereſt*; for they are not able to oppoſe ſuch a Conquering Army as the *Emperors*, if they ſhould prove their Enemies.

Country-m. You ſpeak very well, Mr. *Obſervator*; but I can't help Laughing at *Anjou*'s Letter he wrote from *Naples* to *Vendoſme*, deſiring him not to beat the *Germans* till he came. No more he did not, nor then neither; *Anjou* has Caught a *Tartar*, and has now paid plaguy dear for his two Pair of *Kettle-Drums* he took from *Viſconti*, and ordered to be hung up as Trophies; I think he had as good hang up Himſelf for a Trophy at this time; Himſelf is the only conſiderable thing he has carried off; and I would adviſe him e'en to return Home to *Mazarine*'s old Child; for the *Spaniſh* and *Italian Air* does not in the leaſt agree with his Conſtitution.

THE Reader is deſired to paſs a favourable Conſtruction on the Errata's in this Paper, by reaſon of the Authors diſtance from the Preſs. As alſo to amend in the laſt Paper, Page 2. Coll. 1. lin. 20. for *Legiſlative Iſſue*, Read *Legitimate Iſſue*; and the ſame Page, Paragraph 5th, for *Lean Legion*, read *Thebean Legion*.

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